

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (withdrawn) A method to use a tire hanger with a vehicle hoist to support a vehicle tire, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger having a first end and a second end with a hook, the method comprising:

engaging the first end configured to attach with the horizontal member to the horizontal member whereby the hook is disposed upwards;

moving the tire hanger along the horizontal member until the hook is adjacent to the mounted tire;

removing the mounted tire from the vehicle, and

positioning the tire to engage the hook through the axel hole of the tire to hold the tire.

13. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein the first end is substantially U-shaped to extend around and secure the tire hanger in place to the horizontal member and the hook is substantially the same height as the axel of the vehicle.

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein the tire hanger has an elongated middle section to extend the position of the hook from the horizontal member.

15. (withdrawn) A method to use a tire hanger with a vehicle hoist to support a vehicle tire, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger having a first end, a middle section with a pivotable joint, and a second end with a hook, the method comprising:

engaging the first end configured to attach with the horizontal member to the horizontal member;

pivoting the middle section until the hook is disposed upwards;

securing the middle section;

moving the tire hanger along the horizontal member until the hook is adjacent to the mounted tire;

removing the mounted tire from the vehicle, and

positioning the tire to engage the hook through the axel hole of the tire to hold the tire.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the first end is substantially U-shaped to extend around and secure the tire hanger in place to the horizontal member and the hook is substantially the same height as the axel of the vehicle.
17. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the pivotable joint is rotatable about a single axis or multiple axes to position the tire in a variety of locations relative to the hoist and vehicle and is secured using a bearing assembly, a pin, and a frictional locking device.
18. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the pivotable joint is rotated with a wrap hinge.
19. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the tire hanger has an elongated middle section to extend the position of the hook from the horizontal member.
20. (withdrawn) A method to use a tire hanger with a vehicle hoist to support a vehicle tire, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger having a

first end, a middle section with a pivotable joint, and a second end with a hook, the method comprising:

a means for securing the first end to the horizontal member;

a means for pivoting and locking the middle section until the hook is disposed upwards;

moving the tire hanger along the horizontal member until the hook is adjacent to the mounted tire;

removing the mounted tire from the vehicle, and

positioning the tire to engage the hook through the axel hole of the tire,

whereby the hook holds the vehicle tire at approximately the same height as the axel of the vehicle.

21. (currently amended) ~~A tire hanger for use with a vehicle hoist, the vehicle hoist having a support member, the tire hanging device comprising:~~

a hoist wrap section having an open end arranged to removeably engage to ~~the a~~ horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist;

a tire hanging section arranged to engage a wheel; and;

a middle section disposed between the hoist wrap section and the tire hanging section,

whereby ~~the tire hanger is wrapped around the hoist using the~~ hoist wrap section is shaped so as to wrap around and the horizontal support member of the vehicle hoist; and be moved slidably positionable along the horizontal support member position at a user-selected ~~a location selected by a user to hang a tire.~~

22. (currently amended) The device of Claim 21, wherein the hoist wrap section is configured to accommodate horizontal support members having varying dimensions without the need for fasteners.
23. (currently amended) The device of Claim 21, wherein the tire-hanging section is upwardly angled ~~configured~~ to hold an automotive wheel through an ~~the~~ axle hole of the wheel.
24. (currently amended) The device of Claim 21, wherein the length of the middle section is configured to accommodate supports members having varying dimensions such that the tire hanging section ~~is positioned to~~ receives the wheel at a distance defined by the length of the middle section.
25. (previously presented) The device of Claim 24, wherein the middle section includes an articulated section such that the tire hanging section is pivotable.
26. (currently amended) A tire hanger ~~for use with a vehicle hoist, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanging device~~ comprising:
a continuous strip of material configured to removeably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the strip having
a first end arranged to wrap around ~~engage to~~ the horizontal support without the need for fasteners;
a second end having a hook configuration to engage a wheel;
a middle section disposed between the first end and the second end and having a length suitable for the hook configuration to engage an axle hole of the wheel, whereby engagement of the hook configuration with the wheel locks the first end at the user-selected position.

27. (currently amended) The tire hanger of Claim 26, wherein the hook configuration holds the wheel at approximately the same height as the axle of ~~the~~ a vehicle supported by the horizontal member.
28. (previously presented) The tire hanger of Claim 26, wherein the first end is substantially U-shaped to extend around and secure the tire hanger in place to the horizontal member and the middle section is elongated to extend the hook configuration from the horizontal member.
29. (previously presented) The tire hanger of Claim 26, wherein the middle section is articulated to permit the hook configuration to be pivoted from the first end.
30. (currently amended) A tire hanger ~~for use with a vehicle hoist, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger comprising:~~
a strip of material configured to removeably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the strip having
a first end arranged to wrap around ~~engage to~~ the horizontal support without the need for fasteners,
a second end having a hook configuration to engage a wheel, and
a middle section disposed between the first end and the second end, the middle section having an articulated joint between the first end and the second end and having a length suitable for engaging the second end with an axle hole of the wheel to position the wheel in an approximately vertical orientation, such that the weight of the wheel bearing upon the second end is conveyed through the middle section to the first end to lock the first end at the user-selected position.

31. (previously presented) The tire hanger of Claim 30, wherein the pivotable joint includes a bearing assembly, a pin, and a locking device.
32. (previously presented) The tire hanger of Claim 31, wherein the locking device is frictional.
33. (currently amended) A tire hanger ~~for use with a vehicle hoist, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger~~ comprising:
a strip of material configured to removeably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the strip having
a U-shaped first end arranged to wrap around ~~engage to~~ the horizontal support of a vehicle hoist without the need for fasteners;
a hooked-shaped second end to engage a wheel, and
a middle section continuously disposed between the first end and the second end, the middle section ~~the first and second ends and~~ having a pivotable joint and a length suitable for the second end to engage ~~an axle hole of the~~ wheel to position the wheel in an approximately vertical orientation, such that the weight of the wheel bearing upon the second end is conveyed through the middle section to the first end to secure the first end at the user-selected position.
34. (currently amended) The tire hanger of Claim 33, wherein the pivotable joint is rotatable about an axis and includes a bearing assembly, a pin, and a frictional locking device to position and hold the wheel in a ~~variety~~ plurality of locations relative to the hoist.

35. (previously presented) The tire hanger of Claim 34, wherein the pivotable joint is rotated with a wrap hinge.

36. (currently amended) A tire hanger ~~for use with a vehicle hoist, the vehicle hoist including a horizontal support member, the tire hanger~~ comprising:

a strip of material configured to removeably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the strip having

a U-shaped first end arranged to wrap around ~~engage to the~~ a horizontal support of a vehicle hoist without the need for fasteners,

a hooked-shaped second end to engage an axle hole of a wheel, and

a middle section disposed between the first and second ends and having a pivotable joint and length suitable for ~~the~~ positioning the second end to

engage the ~~axle hole to hold~~ the wheel and to pivot the second end from the first end, such that the weight of the wheel bearing upon the second end is

conveyed through the middle section to the first end to secure the first end at the user-selected position along the horizontal support.

37. (previously presented) The tire hanger of Claim 36, wherein the pivotable joint includes a bearing assembly, a pin, and a frictional locking device.

38. (currently amended) An ergonomic vehicle hoist accessory comprising:

a hoist connection end configured to wrap around a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected location ~~be slidably connectable to the vehicle hoist;~~

a wheel support end configured to support a wheel for a tire, and

a middle section disposed between the hoist connection end and the wheel support end so as to transfer the weight of the wheel to the hoist connection end and lock the vehicle accessory at the user selected location ~~vehicle hoist~~.

39. (previously presented) The accessory of Claim 38, wherein the middle section includes a pivotable joint to pivot the wheel support end from the hoist connection end.

40. (previously presented) The accessory of Claim 39, wherein the hoist connection end is U-shaped, the wheel support end is hooked-shaped, the pivotable joint includes a bearing assembly, a pin, and a frictional locking device.

41. (new) A tire hanger comprising:

a hoist wrap section having an open end shaped so as to removeably and slidably wrap at least partially around and hang from a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist;

a tire hanging section arranged to engage a wheel; and,

a middle section disposed between the hoist wrap section and the tire hanging section.

42. (new) The tire hanger of Claim 41, wherein the hoist wrap section is wrapped at least partially around the horizontal support member and slidably positioned along the support member to engage the wheel by the tire hanging section and lock the wheel at the user-selected location.

43. (new) A tire hanger comprising:

a continuous strip of material configured to removeably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the strip having

a first end shaped so as to wrap at least partially around the horizontal support without the need for fasteners;
a second end having a hook configuration to engage a wheel; and
a middle section disposed between the first end and the second end and having a length suitable for the hook configuration to engage an axle hole of the wheel., whereby engagement of the hook configuration with the wheel locks the first end at the user-selected position.

44. (new) The tire hanger of Claim 43, wherein the first end is locked at the user-selected position as a consequence of the weight of the wheel bearing upon the second end.

45. (new) A tire hanger comprising:

a strip of material configured to removeably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist at a user-selected position, the strip having

a first end shaped so as to wrap at least partially around the horizontal support without the need for fasteners;

a second end having a hook configuration to engage a wheel; and

a middle section disposed between the first end and the second end and having and having a pivotable joint and length suitable for the positioning the hook configuration to engage an axle hole of the wheel.

46. (new) The tire hanger of Claim 45, wherein the first end is secured at the user-selected position as a consequence of the weight of the wheel bearing upon the second end.

47. (new) The tire hanger of Claim 45, wherein the articulated joint permits pivoting of the second end from the first end.